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simple and charming ballad, founded on certain incidents in the life of Sir Harry Frankland, whose mansion at Hopkinton, in this State, was standing a few years ago, almost a solitary memorial of his residence in America. This poem is marked by great tenderness and beauty, and shows how admirably Dr. Holmes might have succeeded if he had attempted a still more elaborate version of the story. The rest of the volume is made up of miscellaneous poems written between 1849 and 1861, and composed in "many keys." As a whole, they exhibit the same characteristics as his earlier poems, and among them are some of the best productions of his versatile pen, such as "The Deacon's Masterpiece," "The Chambered Nautilus," "Latter-Day Warnings," and his various Class Songs. In nearly all we find the same brilliant wit, the same genial humor, or the same tender pathos, set in the same easy and graceful versification, which gave so wide a popularity to the earlier collection. No humorous poet, if we except Thomas Hood, has known so well how to unite the keenest wit with the deepest pathos; and it is a chief merit both of his earlier and his later poems that, while he has a power of satire which few writers in our language have surpassed, he has never made it an instrument of personal or party spite. So far as we remember, there is not an ill-natured line in either volume, not even in those pieces in which the writer most strongly ridicules some fashionable folly, or exposes some new form of pretentious ignorance. A sterling good-sense and a kindly temper are at the very root of his character as a poet, but with them are united a delicacy of fancy and a skill of versification which are rarely found in poets of this class. His later poems, in general, have a less exuberant mirthfulness than was seen in his earlier productions; but they show a steady growth in poetical power. His "Army Hymn," and indeed most of the pieces inspired by the events of the last year, will take rank with the best productions of the kind in the English language.

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12. — *Tales of a Grandfather. History of Scotland.* By SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART. With Notes. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 6 vols. 16mo.

FEW men of letters have achieved a high reputation in so many different departments of literary endeavor as Sir Walter Scott. He would have been universally recognized as a great poet, if the fame which he acquired by "Marmion" and "The Lady of the Lake" had not been eclipsed by his subsequent triumphs as a novelist; and if we except his "Life of Napoleon," which is utterly unworthy of his powers,

a high rank must also be assigned to his historical and critical writings. His "Tales of a Grandfather" show at once his large acquaintance with the history of Scotland and England, and his rare skill in reproducing a lifelike picture of the men and events of a former generation. They belong, indeed, to the least brilliant period of his literary career, — to those busy years when he was struggling manfully with adverse fortune, and laboring with sleepless activity to throw off the heavy load of debt by which he was borne down; but they have few or no marks of powers overtaken, or of a disappointed ambition. In a simple and luminous narrative, always picturesque and often eloquent, the great novelist retraced for a beloved grandson, one of Lockhart's children, the history of Scotland, from its remote beginning among half-barbarous tribes down to the final overthrow of the Stuarts by the suppression of the rebellion of 1745, and in more than one sense the task seems to have been a labor of love. In respect to some points, his views are open to criticism, and his political prejudices are not always under sufficient control; but in the main his task was performed in a very satisfactory manner, and as a condensed summary of Scotch history the "Tales" may be read with profit, not only by the class of persons to whom they are specially addressed, but also by persons of mature years. No better or more beautiful edition of them has been published than that now before us. On the completion of these volumes Sir Walter wrote two volumes illustrative of the History of France, which we presume will be reprinted hereafter.

13. — *The Armies of Europe: comprising Descriptions in Detail of the Military Systems of England, France, Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Sardinia, adapting their Advantages to all Arms of the United States Service: and embodying the Report of Observations in Europe during the Crimean War, as Military Commissioner from the United States Government, in 1855–56.* By GEO. B. McCLELLAN, Major-General U. S. Army. Originally published under the Direction of the War Department, by Order of Congress. Illustrated with several hundred Engravings. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1861. 8vo. pp. 499.

IN 1855–56, General McClellan served as a junior member of the military commission sent from the United States for observation of the course of the Crimean war, and for the procuring of such information as might be embodied in the better organization of our own military forces. The contents of the volume now in our hands first appeared,